

Public Health

and the Hanford Burial Ground Cleanup

The Community-Oriented Public Health Practice students researched current issues in the cleanup process. Here we present key issues in the burial ground cleanup affecting the public's health, criteria to evaluate the different burial ground remediation options, and ways the public can get involved.

Key Issues

No one is sure exactly what is in the burial grounds or exactly what risks they pose. Here are some of the important questions stakeholders are asking during this comment process.

- What would adequate containment of burial ground contents mean?
 - Contents include at least 363 kg of plutonium, 485,380 kg of uranium, solvents, many of which can cause cancer, and acids, as well as contaminated equipment.
- What are the health effects of exposure to multiple and interacting toxic and radioactive substances?
- How can we ensure exposure limits for toxins and radioactivity protect vulnerable populations?
- What would appropriate monitoring of all pathways for contamination mean?

In order to fully address these and other questions, the public needs clear and accessible information.

Stay Informed

Your opinions are a valuable part of the burial ground planning process. We encourage you to take the next step by connecting with the Hanford Advisory Board, other advocacy groups, and your elected officials. You may encounter complex and conflicting information; we encourage you to be critical and question everything. Educate yourself, get involved!

Sources of information and ways to get involved:

Government Accountability Project
Heart of America Northwest
Hanford Challenge
Hanford Concerns Council
Department of Energy/Hanford
Hanford Watch
Department of Ecology

www.whistleblower.org
www.hoanw.org
www.hanfordchallenge.org
www.hanfordconcernscouncil.org
www.hanford.gov
www.hanfordwatch.org
www.ecy.wa.gov

Criteria

Comprehensive identify the contents and address the hazards they pose

Protective ensure the health and safety of the public, workers, and vulnerable populations

Vigilant include the monitoring of chemicals in the ground, air, and water for as long as the chemical is harmful

Accountable ensure transparency and accessibility of information for informed decision making

